CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1.   A system for allowing various document signing functions comprising:

a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems, each remotely located computer-based system comprising:

a user interface component for displaying an electronic document the user of the computer-based system desires to assign signing functions thereto, and for designating one or more blocks of text for signature tasks;

a processing component for uniquely identifying the designated blocks of text; and

a browser component comprising:

an assigning component for assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks text in a registered document; and

a signing component for allowing review of the assigning blocks of text, that are assigned to the user, for selecting at least one of an acceptance option or a decline option for each of the assigned blocks of text, and for executing a digital signature of the blocks of text; and

a document computer-based system coupled to the remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the document system comprising:

a registering component for registering documents, the registering component comprising:

a first component for identifying designated blocks of text; and

a second component for verifying the correctness of uniquely identified blocks of text;

a storing component for storing the users assigned to the blocks of text of a registered document and digital signature certificates for preregistered users, digital signatures of applied to registered documents, and the users' selections of the acceptance or decline options; and

a retrieval component for allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks and for allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

2. The system of Claim 1, wherein the assigning component further assigns a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

3. A method for allowing various document signing functions to be performed by users at a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems coupled to a document computer-based system over a data network, the method comprising:

displaying an electronic document at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems

designating one or more blocks of text for signature tasks;

uniquely identifying the designated blocks of text; and

assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks text in a registered document; and

allowing review of the assigning blocks of text, that are assigned to the user, for selecting at least one of an acceptance option or a decline option for each of the assigned blocks of text, and for executing a digital signature of the blocks of text; and

registering documents at the document computer-based system, the registering comprising:

identifying designated blocks of text; and

verifying the correctness of uniquely identified blocks of text;

storing the users assigned to the blocks of text of a registered document and digital signature certificates for users preregistered with the document computer-based system;

storing digital signatures of documents;

storing the users' selections of the acceptance or decline options;

allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks; and

allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

4. The system of Claim 3, wherein the assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks text further comprises assigning a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

5.   A system for allowing various document signing functions, the system being coupled to a document signing server over a data network, the system comprising:

a user interface component for displaying an electronic document the user of the computer-based system desires to assign signing functions thereto, and for designating one or more blocks of text for signature tasks;

a processing component for uniquely identifying the designated blocks of text; and

a browser component comprising:

an assigning component for assigning one or more other users to one or more of the blocks text in a registered document by the document signing server; and

a signing component for allowing review of the assigning blocks of text, that are assigned to the user, for selecting at least one of an acceptance option or a decline option for each of the assigned blocks of text, and for executing a digital signature of the blocks of text.

6.   The system of Claim 5, wherein the assigning component further assigns a completion deadline for assigned users to complete assigned actions.

7.   A system for allowing various document signing functions, the system being coupled to a plurality of remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the system comprising:

a registering component for registering documents sent from the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems over a data network, the registering component comprising:

a first component for identifying blocks of text designated for signing at one of the plurality of remotely located computer-based systems and encoded within the associated document; and

a second component for verifying the correctness of uniquely identified blocks of text;

a storing component for storing the users assigned to the blocks of text of a registered document and digital signature certificates for preregistered users, digital signatures of applied to registered documents, and the users' selections of the acceptance or decline options; and

a retrieval component for allowing retrieval of documents with previously assigned signature tasks and for allowing retrieval of the stored digital signatures of a document and the stored users' selections.

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